

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO AMEMBASSY KABUL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 10036

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, AF, IR

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH AFGHAN AMBASSADOR GHAZI

SUMMARY: IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF NOVEMBER 23, AMBASSADOR GHAZI MADE A NUMBER OF INTERESTING COMMENTS ABOUT THE INTERNAL WORKINGS OF DAUD'S GOVERNMENT. SUBJECTS COVERED INCLUDED WAHEED ABDULLAH'S RELATIONSHIP WITH NAIM, THE ROLE OF MINISTER OF FINANCE ABDOLELLAH AND THE STATUS OF RAWAN FARHADI. END SUMMARY.

1. AT SMALL SOCIAL GATHERING NOVEMBER 23, EMBOFF RECENTLY ASSIGNED IN KABUL HAD A LONG CONVERSATION ABOUT THE CURRENT STATE OF AFGHAN POLITICS WITH ZALMAY GHAZI. GHAZI, WHO IS VERY OPEN AND CANDID OUTSIDE OF AFGHANISTAN, MENTIONED THAT HE WOULD BE GOING BACK TO KABUL ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, FOR CONSULTATIONS. HE IS INTENT ON CONVINCING DAOUD THAT THE SHAH FULLY INTENDS TO CARRY OUT HIS PROMISE TO SUPPLY LARGE-SCALE ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN BUT THAT THE IRANIANS WILL INSIST ON THE AFGHANS TAKING THE INITIATIVE TO PLAN AND IMPLEMENT THE PROJECTS. GHAZI HAD JUST RECEIVED FROM KABUL THE SIGNED AGREEMENT FOR A \$10 MILLION IRANIAN GRANT FOR FEASIBILITY STUDIES AND WAS APPALLED TO SEE MINISTER OF FINANCE ABDOLELLAH'S SIGNATURE ON THE DOCUMENT. GHAZI HAD EXPECTED KHURRAM OR JALALLAR TO BE THE SIGNATOR AND WAS UPSET TO SEE ABDOLELLAH, WHOSE INCOMPETENCE HE WELL RECOGNIZED, INVOLVED. HE SAID HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO CONVINCE DAOUD THAT THEY MUST BE
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SERIOUS ABOUT DEALING WITH IRAN AND ABDOLELLAH IS NOT UP TO THE

JOB.

2. WHEN ASKED HOW WAHEED ABDULLAH WAS DOING, GHAZI SAID THAT HE HAD CAUTIONED HIM MANY TIMES ABOUT THE NUMBER OF ENEMIES HE WAS BUILDING UP FOR HIMSELF, BUT TO NO AVAIL. HE DESCRIBED ABDULLAH'S ACTIONS AT A DIPLOMATIC DINNER IN TEHRAN SEVERAL MONTHS AGO AND HIS CELEBRATED REMARKS ABOUT BHUTTO'S MOTHER. NAIM HAD BEEN FURIOUS AND DISGUSTED AND GHAZI WAS ON THE POINT OF RESIGNING OVER THE MATTER. JUST A FEW WEEKS AGO NAIM HAD LOST HIS TEMPER AGAIN AT ABDULLAH AND "ALMOST SLAPPED HIM" WHEN NAIM FOUND OUT THAT ABDULLAH HAD BEEN PRESSURING THE FRENCH TO ACCEPT THE NOMINATION OF A MAHMUD HABIBI AS AMBASSADOR WHEN HABIBI, IN HIS STUDENT DAYS, HAD ABANDONED A FRENCH WIFE AND CHILD IN PARIS. THE FRENCH WERE MOST UPSET OVER THE INCIDENT AND NAIM WAS FURIOUS.

3. GHAZI MENTIONED THAT RAWAN FARHADI HAD COME A LONG WAY BACK TO BEING RESPECTABLE, AND WAS TALKING WITH NAIM AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK.

4. GHAZI IS NOT ENJOYING HIS JOB AS AMBASSADOR TO IRAN. HE IS SURE THE IRANIANS ARE WILLING TO ESTABLISH A COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP BUT WONDERS IF THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT REALLY INTENDS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY. HE FEELS THAT DAOUD WILL LAST BUT IS STILL SURROUNDING HIMSELF WITH INCOMPETENTS.

MIKLOS

NOTE BY OC/T: LIMDIS CAPTION ADDED PER MS. WINSTANLEY S/S-O.

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